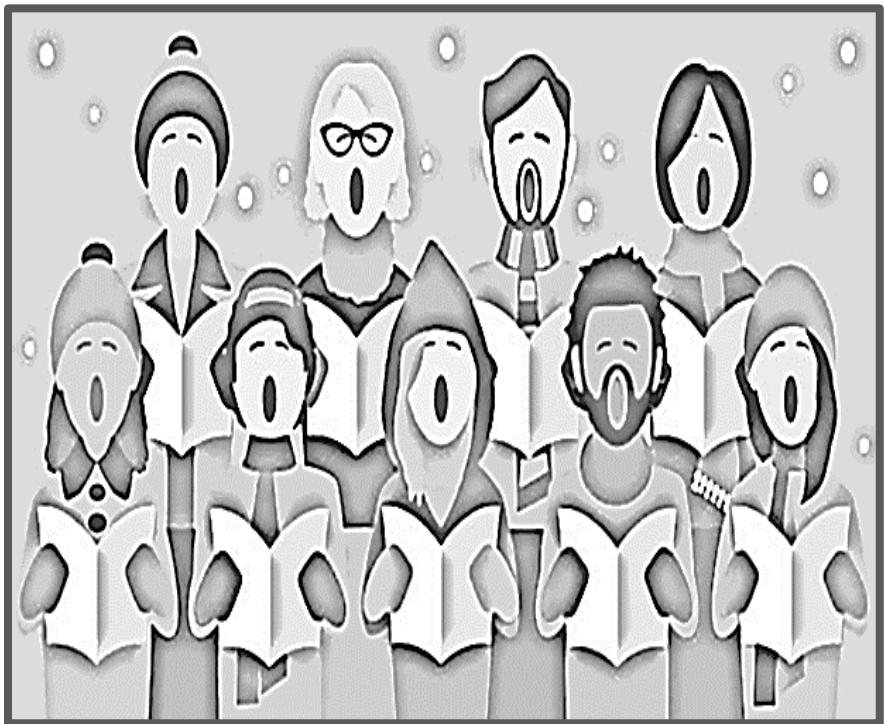


The Carols of Christmas: Hymn Histories and Themes (Part 2)



“Speak to each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music in your hearts to the Lord.”—Ephesians 5:19 (NCV)

Valley Grace Brethren Church of Armagh, Pennsylvania
Sunday, December 19th, AD 2021

The LORD'S Day

The Nineteenth Day of December, *in the Year of our Lord 2021*

Welcome to the worship services of Valley Grace Brethren Church!



Sunday School—9:30 AM.

We wrap-up our analysis of the failure of theologically liberal civic involvement and summarize the five deficient views of Christian participation in secular political affairs.

Morning Worship—10:30 AM.

Call to Worship: * *“What Child is This”* (#126; v. I)

Invocation.*

Hymn: *“Good Christian Men, Rejoice”* (#119).

Prayer for Tithes & Offerings.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-25.

Prayer, Praises, & Testimony.

Hymn: *“I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”* (#123).

Announcements.

Hymn: *“We Three Kings of Orient Are”* (#134).

Dismissal of Youth for Children's Church.

Greeting One Another.

Message: *“THE CAROLS OF CHRISTMAS (Part II).”*

Closing Hymn: * *“What Child is This”* (#126).

Benediction.*



*The Congregation will please arise, if able.



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Downloadable audio mp3 messages at archive.org (@reesetpj)
Also check out our YouTube Channel (search "Terry Reese")!
Camp Mantowagan website: <https://www.campmantowagan.com>

Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study—4:00 PM.

Our studies in Daniel ch. 4 this week focuses upon the issue of “signs & wonders”—a matter of great discussion and debate in the contemporary church.



Today's Verses for Reflection:

“And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah; for out of you shall come forth a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.”— Matthew 2:6 (NASB)



Week of Dec. 19-25, 2021

Sunday School—6; Morning Worship—22
Midweek—3; Christmas Eve—25
Church Offering: \$573.00

CHRISTMAS QUOTES

“Infinite, and an infant. Eternal, and yet born of a woman. Almighty, and yet hanging on a woman's breast. Supporting a universe, and yet needing to be carried in a mother's arms. King of angels, and yet the reputed son of Joseph. Heir of all things, and yet the carpenter's despised son.”—Charles Haddon Spurgeon

“The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God.”—C.S. Lewis

“You can never truly enjoy Christmas until you can look up into the Father's face and tell him you have received his Christmas gift.”
—John R. Rice

Christmas Hymn Stories:
"What Child is This?"

By Pastor Terry L. Reese, 12/19/2021

"Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"—Matt. 16:13

"What Child Is This?" is a Christmas carol whose lyrics were written by William Chatterton Dix, an Englishman, in 1865. At the time of composing this carol, Dix worked as an insurance company manager and had been struck by a severe and near fatal illness at the age of 29. While recovering, he underwent a great depression and spiritual renewal that led him to write several hymns—including the lyrics to this carol, which was subsequently set to the tune of "Greensleeves," a traditional English folk love-ballad of apparent Elizabethan origin. Although "What Child Is This?" was written in Great Britain, the carol is today experiences greater popularity in the United States than in its country of origin.

The song's general context is the Adoration of the Shepherds in Luke 2, although v. 3 also alludes to the Magi of Matthew 2.

The Song notably poses several rhetorical questions in vv. 1 & 2:

*What child is this, who, laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?*

The answer pertaining to the Child's Messianic identity is subsequently revealed in the chorus, while the chief reason for His coming in a state of such humility is particularly revealed in the evangelistic appeal of verse 3 to receive Christ as Savior:

The King of kings salvation brings, Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

The Song ultimately recalls the question of questions posed by our Lord unto His disciples at Caesarea Philippi in Matt. 16:13-17:

Matt. 16:15: "But who do you say that I am?"

Do YOU know who Jesus is? Do you know WHY He came? Have you personally received Him as the Eternal God come in human flesh to die for your sins as your substitute? Have you accepted the free gift of eternal life and placed your trust in His finished work on the Cross for your salvation?